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A TALE OF LOVE AND HONOUR

Vol 605





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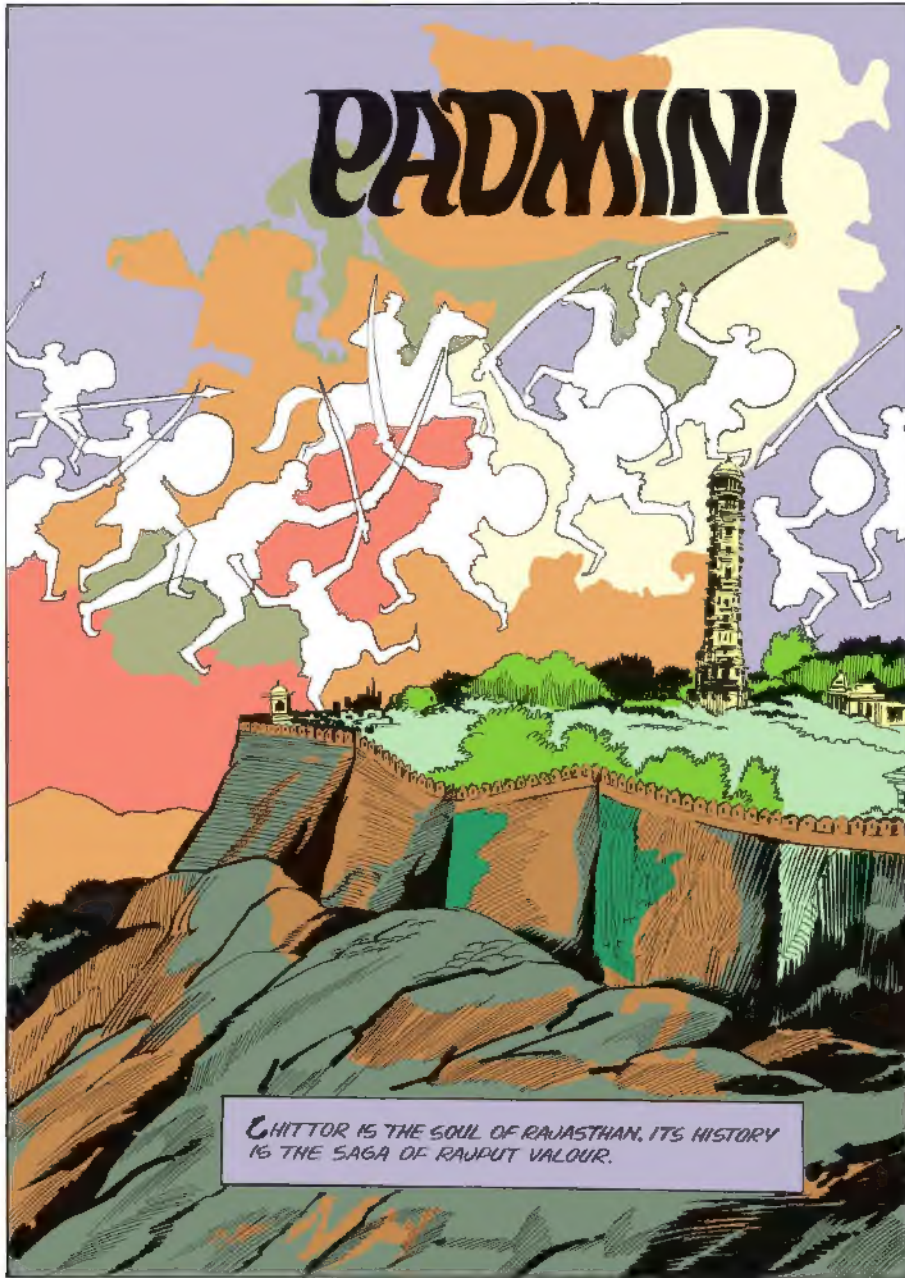
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Anant Pai

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# PADMINI



CHITTOR IS THE SOUL OF RAJASTHAN. ITS HISTORY  
IS THE SAGA OF RAJPUT VALOUR.

RAJA RATNASEN, A VALIANT RULER OF CHITTOR  
WAS ALSO A LOVER OF MUSIC.

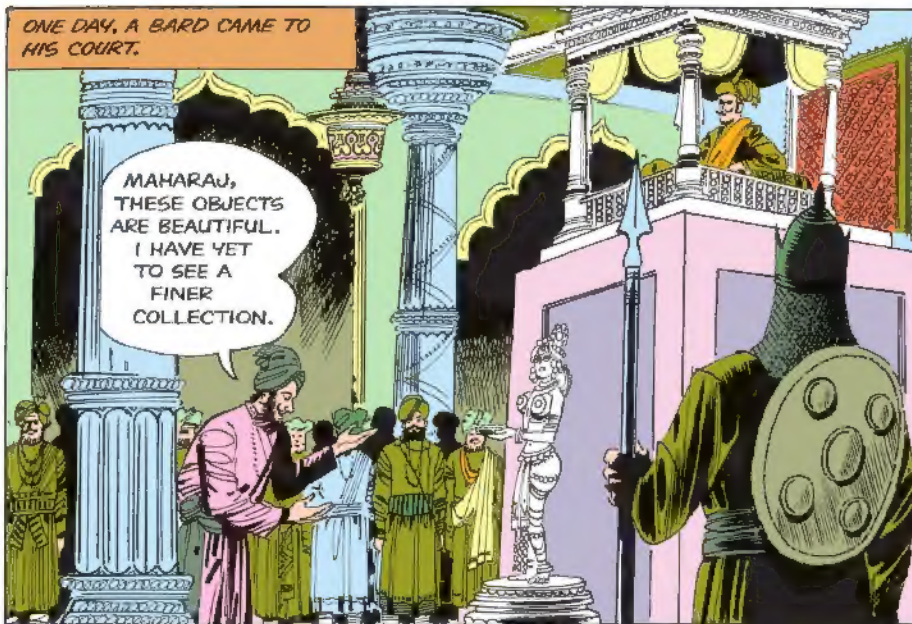


HE WAS ALSO A LOVER OF BEAUTY AND FINE-ARTS.





ONE DAY, A BARD CAME TO HIS COURT.



MAHARAU,  
THESE OBJECTS  
ARE BEAUTIFUL.  
I HAVE YET  
TO SEE A  
FINER  
COLLECTION.

...BUT, PARDON  
ME, MAHARAU,  
NOTHING HERE  
EQUALS THE  
BEAUTY OF  
PADMINI.

PADMINI?



YES,  
MAHARAU, PADMINI  
THE PRINCESS  
OF SINHALA  
ISLAND.

DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE BARD'S  
ACCOUNT OF PADMINI, RATNASEN  
WENT TO SINHALA AND  
MARRIED HER.



ON THEIR JOURNEY BACK TO CHITTOR,  
PADMINI'S RELATIVES, GORA AND  
BADAL, ACCOMPANIED THE BRIDE.



SOON KING RATNASEN WAS BACK IN THE COURT  
OF CHITTOR.

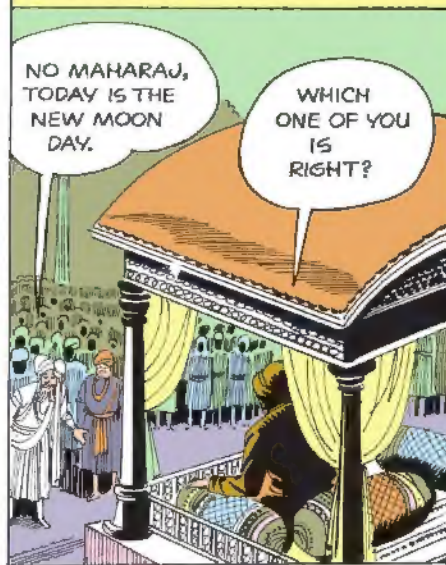




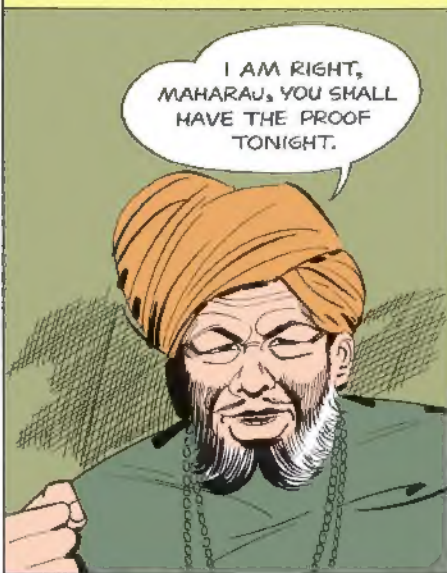
AMONG RATNASEN'S COURTIER'S WAS A SCHOLAR NAMED RAGHAV CHETAN. ONE DAY -



BUT RAGHAV CHETAN HAD MADE A MISTAKE IN HIS CALCULATIONS.



BEING A STUBBORN MAN RAGHAV DID NOT ADMIT HIS MISTAKE.



THAT NIGHT RAGHAV USED HIS SORCERY AND -

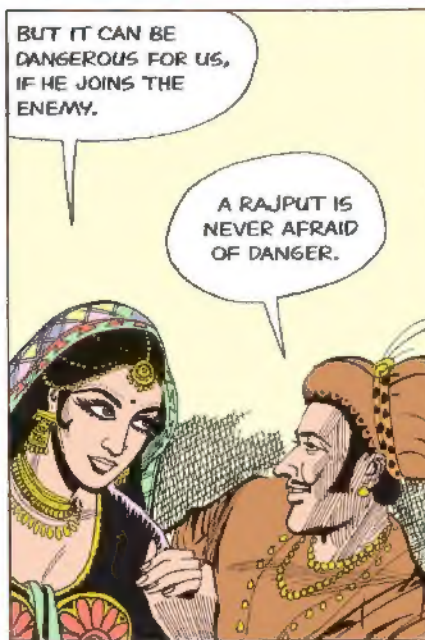


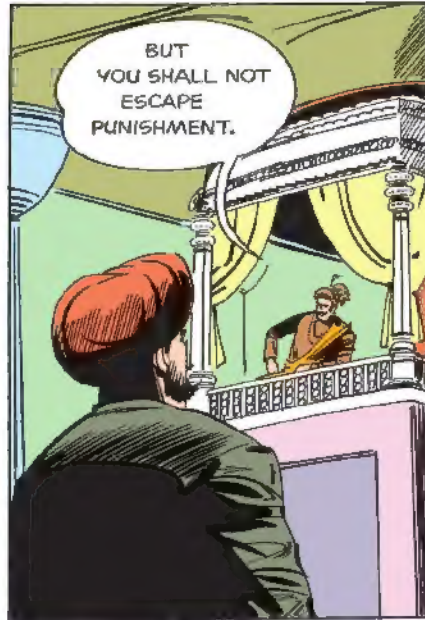


LATER IN THE PALACE, KING RATNASEN DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH QUEEN PADMINI.



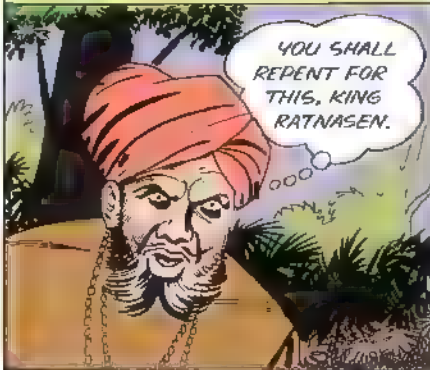








RAGHAV CHETAN, THEN PROCEEDED  
TOWARDS DELHI THROUGH JUNGLES.



YOU SHALL  
REPENT FOR  
THIS, KING  
RATNASÉN.

ALA-UD-DIN, THE SULTAN OF DELHI,  
WAS HUNTING IN THE SAME  
JUNGLE.



SUDDENLY A MELODIOUS  
TUNE FILLED THE  
JUNGLE AIR.



THE HERD OF DEER RAN IN THE DIRECTION  
FROM WHICH THE MUSIC CAME. FASCINATED,  
ALA-UD-DIN FOLLOWED THE DEER.



THE DEER STOPPED IN FRONT OF RAGHAV  
PLAYING HIS FLUTE. THEY WERE HYPNOTISED.  
SO WAS THE SULTAN.



HE HAD NEVER HEARD SUCH MUSIC.



THUS RAGHAV CHETAN JOINED THE  
DELHI COURT.

HEAVENLY  
MUSIC!

SULTAN, I KNOW  
WHAT YOU  
DESIRE MOST. THE  
WEALTH AND  
THE WOMEN  
OF OTHERS.



RATNASEN! BEWARE!  
NOW IT IS ONLY A  
MATTER OF TIME.  
I AM CATCHING UP.





ONE DAY A HUNTER PRESENTED A RABBIT TO THE SULTAN.

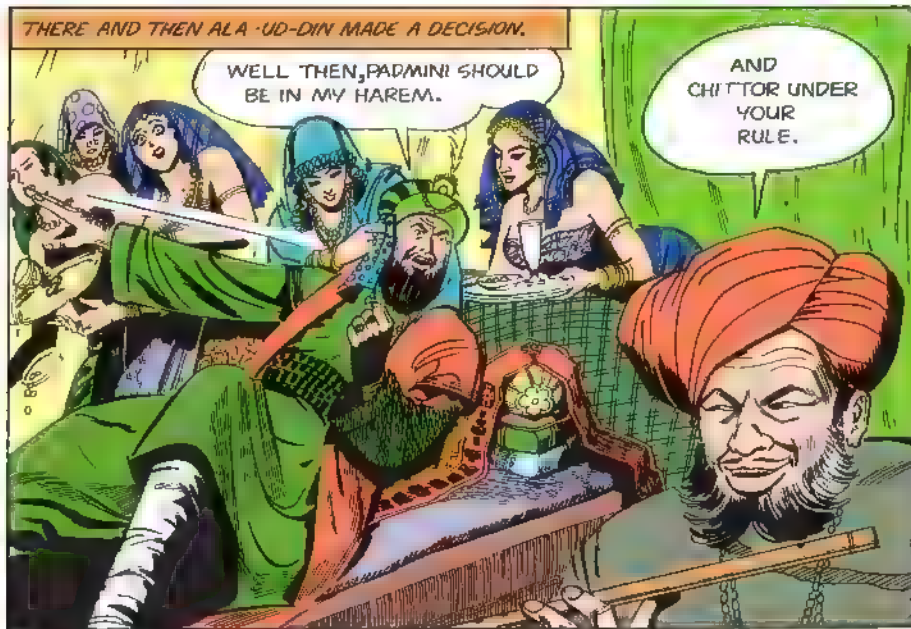
THERE CAN BE NOTHING MORE DELICATE THAN THIS CREATURE.

YOU ARE WRONG, SULTAN.

PADMINI, THE QUEEN OF CHITTOR IS. SHE IS THE MOST DELICATE AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THIS WORLD.

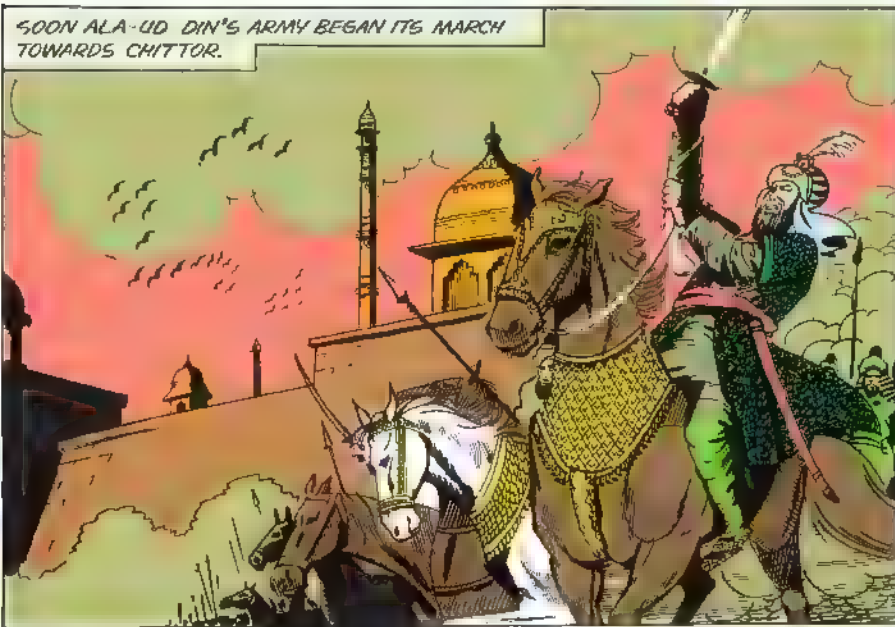
ARE YOU SURE? I HAVE TWO THOUSAND EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL BEGUMS. SURELY PADMINI CAN'T BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ALL OF THEM.

NO SULTAN, I INSIST THAT PADMINI IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD.





SOON ALA-UD DIN'S ARMY BEGAN ITS MARCH  
TOWARDS CHITTOR.



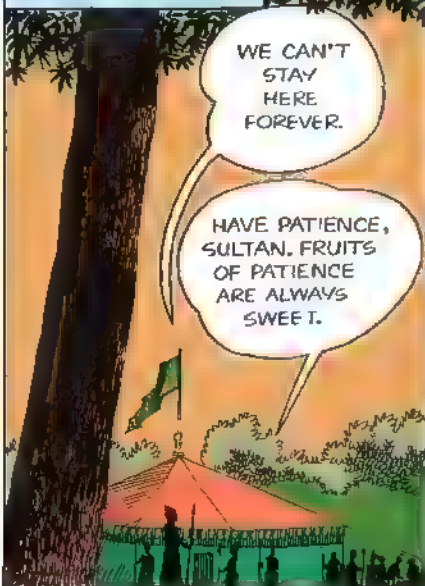
SO LARGE WAS THIS ARMY THAT THE DUST RAISED BY ITS  
MARCH MASKED THE SUN



ALA-UD-DIN LAID A SIEGE AROUND THE FORT OF CHITTOR, BUT TO CONQUER THE WELL-FORTIFIED FORT OF CHITTOR WAS NOT AN EASY TASK.



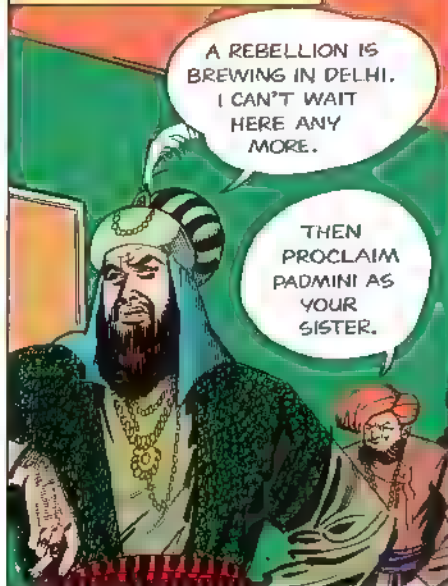
AFTER A LONG WAIT-



WE CAN'T  
STAY  
HERE  
FOREVER.

HAVE PATIENCE,  
SULTAN. FRUITS  
OF PATIENCE  
ARE ALWAYS  
SWEET.

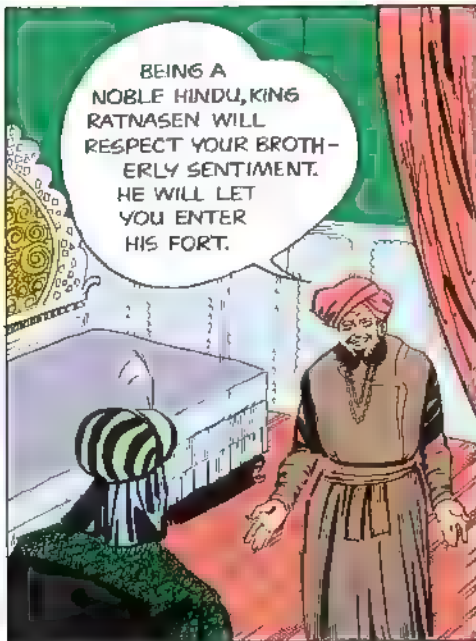
AFTER SOME MORE TIME-



A REBELLION IS  
BREWING IN DELHI.  
I CAN'T WAIT  
HERE ANY  
MORE.

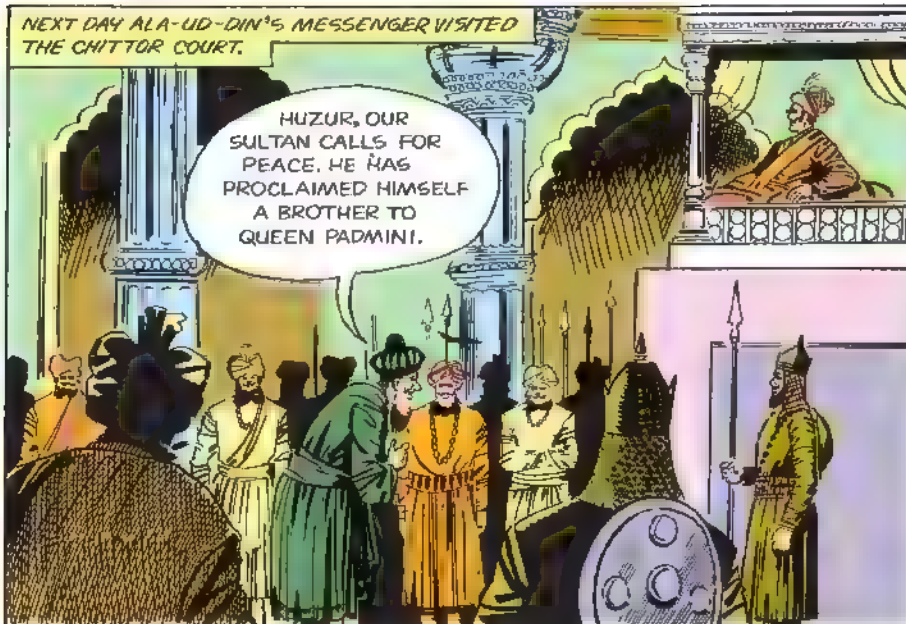
THEN  
PROCLAIM  
PADMINI AS  
YOUR  
SISTER.





NEXT DAY ALA-UD-DIN'S MESSENGER VISITED THE CHITTOR COURT.

HUZUR, OUR SULTAN CALLS FOR PEACE. HE HAS PROCLAIMED HIMSELF A BROTHER TO QUEEN PADMINI.



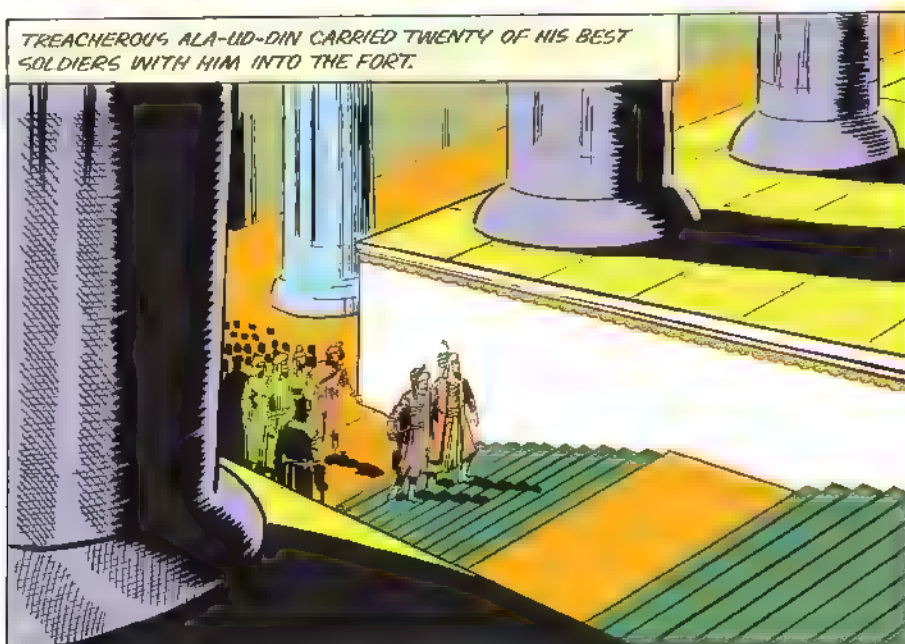
HE WISHES TO SEE HIS SISTER. THEN HE WILL GO BACK. HE SEEKS YOUR PERMISSION TO ENTER THE FORT.



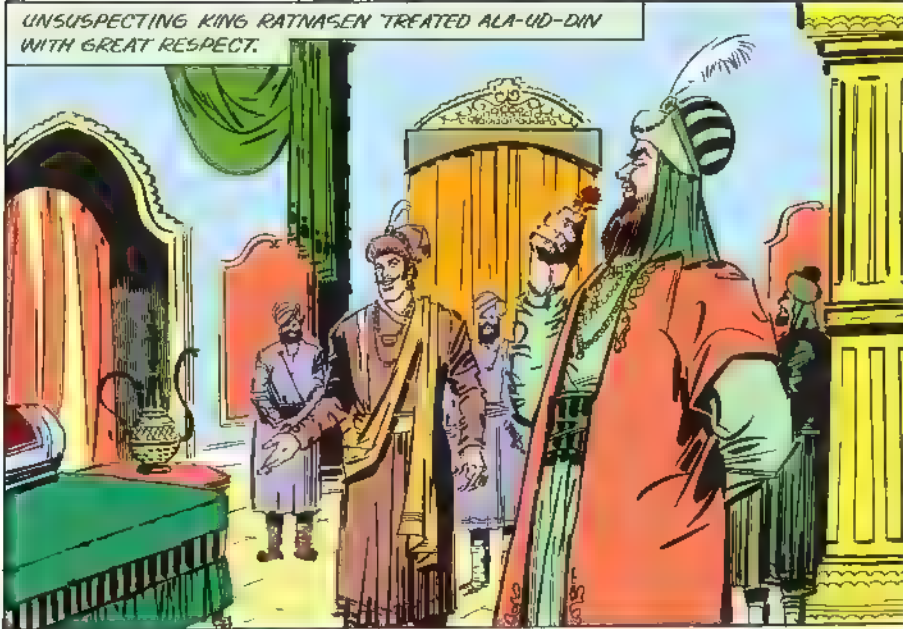
A BROTHER NEEDS NO PERMISSION TO MEET HIS SISTER. YOUR SULTAN IS MOST WELCOME.







UNSUSPECTING KING RATNASEN TREATED ALA-UD-DIN WITH GREAT RESPECT.



INFORM MAHARANI  
PADMINI THAT HER  
BROTHER HAS  
ARRIVED.

AS YOU  
WISH  
MAHARAJ!

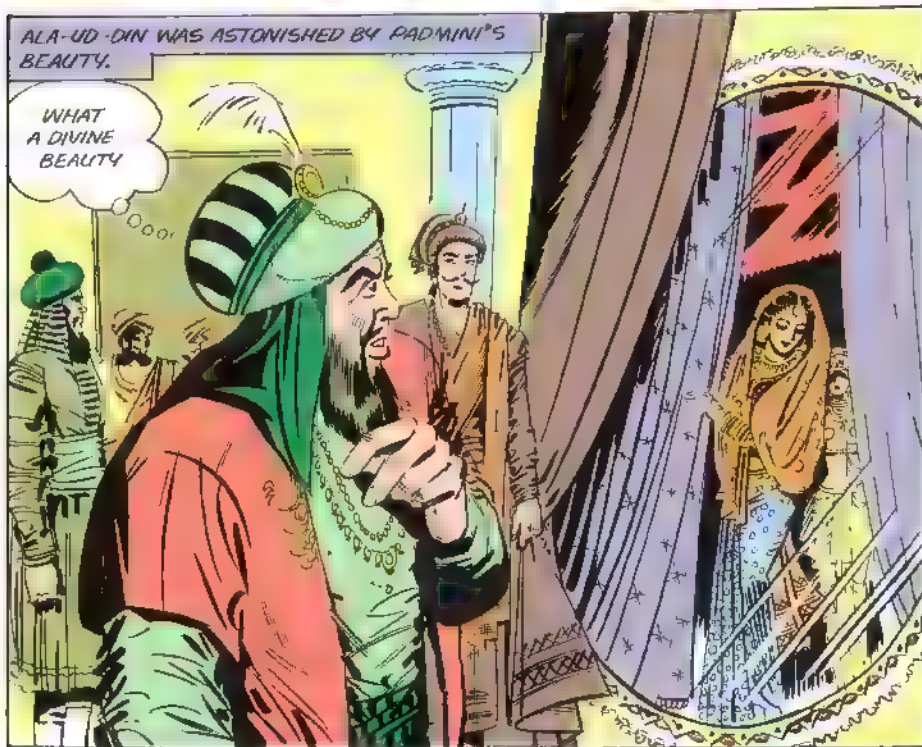


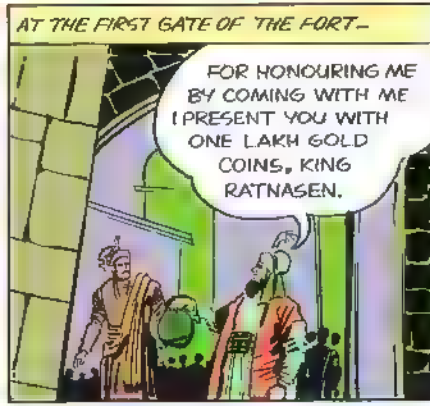
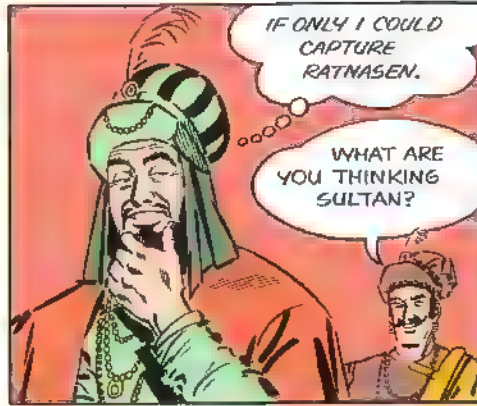
WHEN PADMINI DID NOT COME,  
RATNASEN HIMSELF WENT  
TO CALL HER.

NO, I WILL NOT  
SHOW HIM MY FACE,  
HE IS AN EVIL  
MAN.





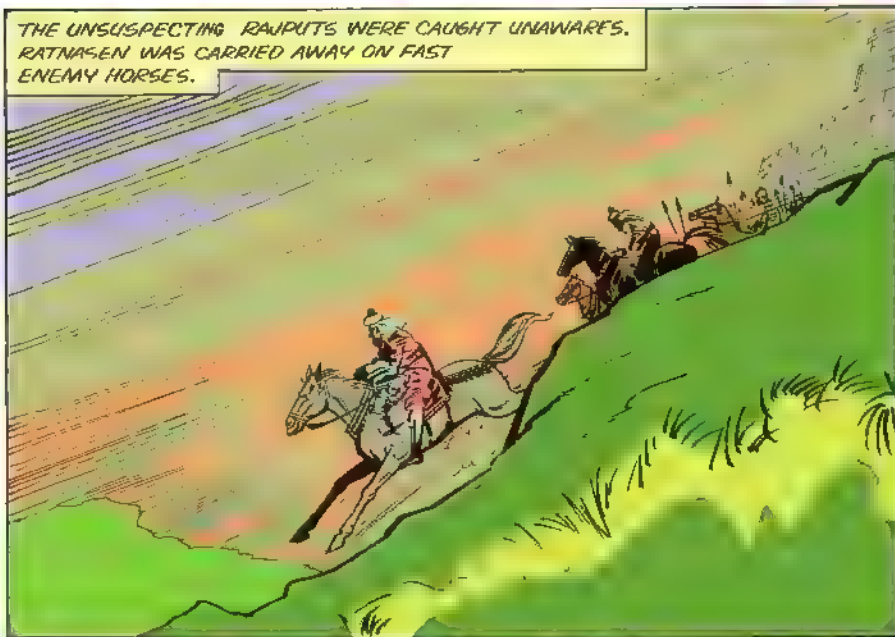






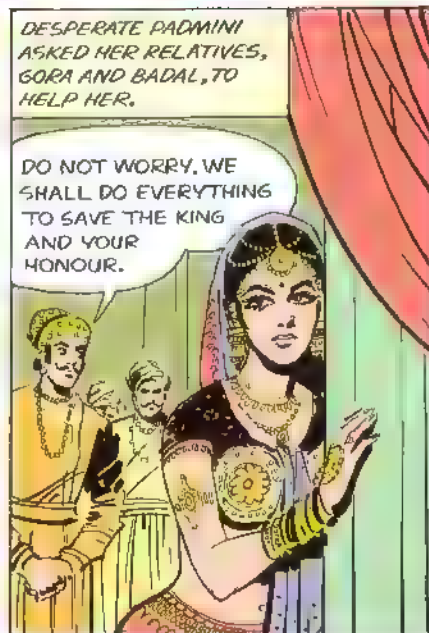


THE UNSUSPECTING RAJPUTS WERE CAUGHT UNAWARES. RATNASEN WAS CARRIED AWAY ON FAST ENEMY HORSES.





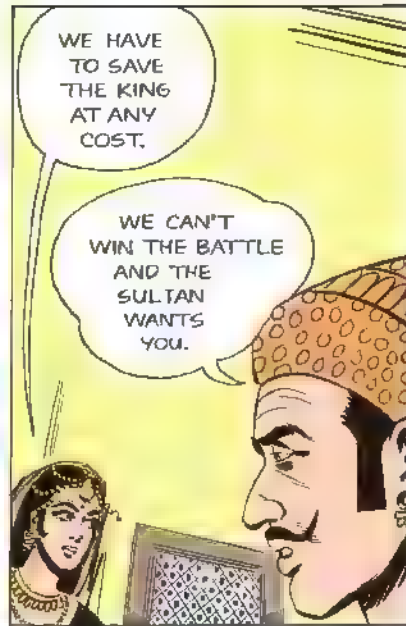






BUT  
HOW TO  
FACE THE  
SULTAN?

YES,  
HIS  
FORCES  
ARE  
VERY  
STRONG.



WE HAVE  
TO SAVE  
THE KING  
AT ANY  
COST.

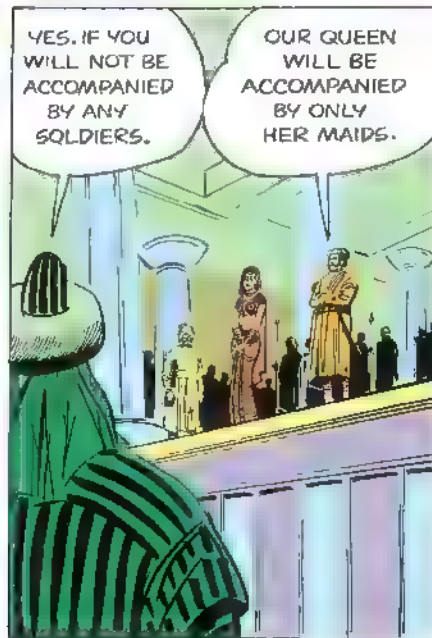
WE CAN'T  
WIN THE BATTLE  
AND THE  
SULTAN  
WANTS  
YOU.



PADMINI MADE A DESPERATE DECISION

INFORM YOUR  
SULTAN THAT I  
SHALL COME  
TO HIM,  
BUT...

...BEFORE THAT  
HE MUST ALLOW  
ME TO MEET MY  
HUSBAND  
ALONE.



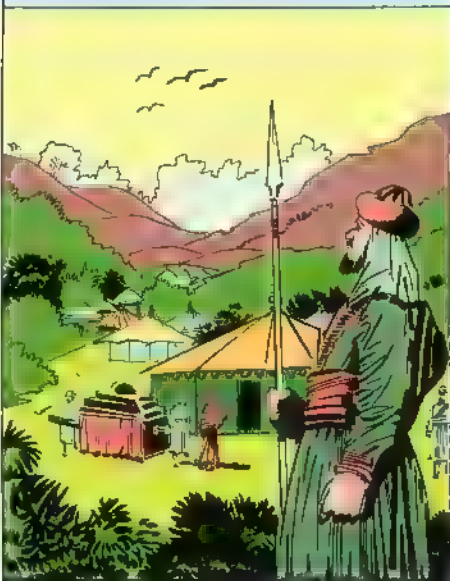
YES, IF YOU  
WILL NOT BE  
ACCOMPANIED  
BY ANY  
SOLDIERS.

OUR QUEEN  
WILL BE  
ACCOMPANIED  
BY ONLY  
HER MAIDS.

PADMINI HAD FIVE HUNDRED MAIDS. NEXT MORNING FIVE HUNDRED PALANQUINS LEFT THE FORT.



PADMINI'S PALANQUIN WAS CARRIED TO PRISONER RATNASEN'S TENT.



KING RATNASEN WAS VERY UPSET.







RATNASEN WAS RELEASED AND RUSHED TOWARDS THE FORT. GORA DRESSED AS A PALANQUIN BEARER GAVE THE SIGNAL.



RATNASÉN REACHED THE FORT SAFELY.

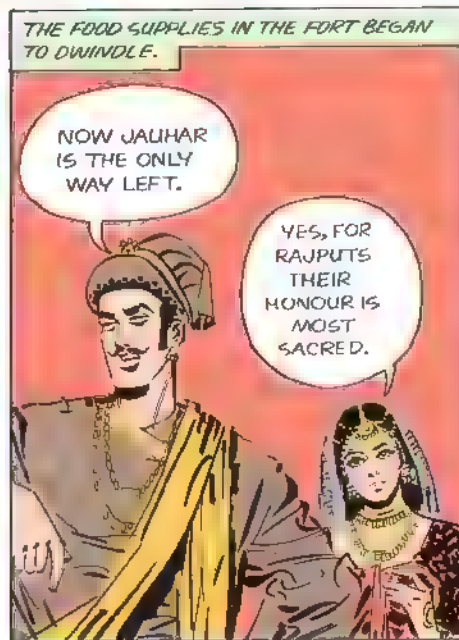


BUT GORA WAS KILLED IN THE BATTLE.



ALA UD-DIN WAS FURIOUS.







SO, HUGE PYRES WERE LIT INSIDE THE FORT.

NO SACRIFICE IS TOO BIG TO SAVE ONE'S HONOUR!



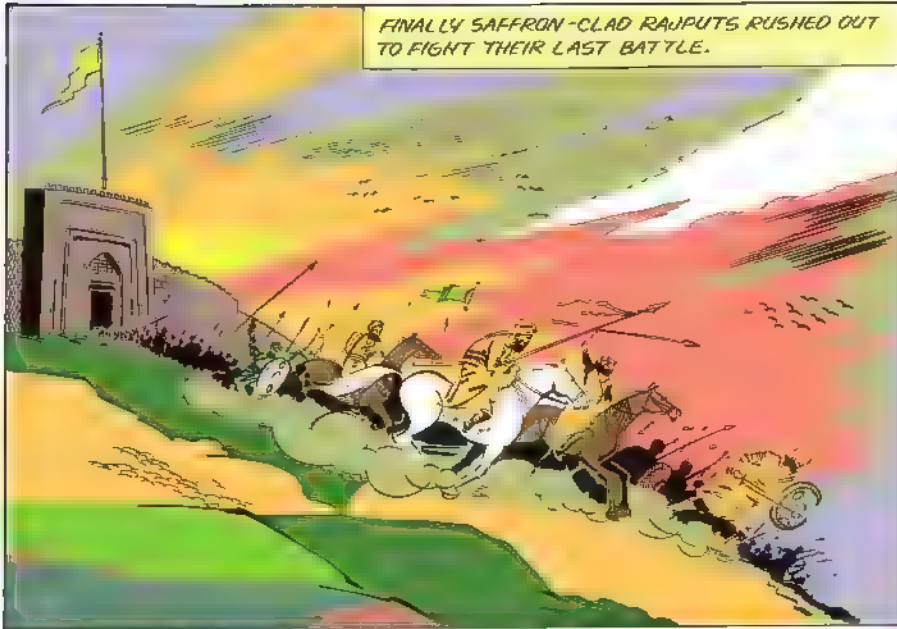
SO, PADMINI LED THE RAJPUT LADIES TO JAUHAR, THE GREAT SACRIFICE BY SELF IMMOLATION.



THE RAJPUT WOMEN PREFERRED DEATH TO DISHONOUR.



FINALLY SAFFRON-CLAD RAJPUTS RUSHED OUT  
TO FIGHT THEIR LAST BATTLE.



AFTER THEIR WOMEN HAD PERFORMED JAUHAR,  
NO RAJPUT HAD ANY DESIRE LEFT TO LIVE.  
THEY WERE THERE TO DIE. BUT THEY TOOK  
A HEAVY TOLL OF ENEMY LIVES.



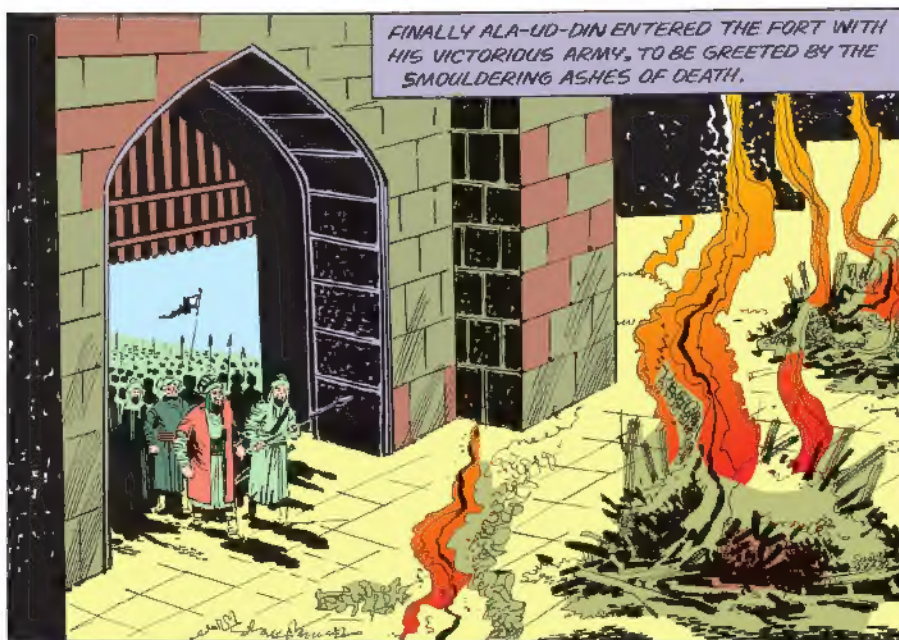
THE SMALL BAND OF RAJPUTS WAS NO MATCH TO THE HUGE ENEMY ARMY. SOON THE BATTLE WAS OVER.

WHY DIDN'T THEY SURRENDER. AGAINST MY ARMY? IT WAS SURE DEATH FOR THEM.

BUT WHAT A GLORIOUS DEATH!



FINALLY ALA-UD-DIN ENTERED THE FORT WITH HIS VICTORIOUS ARMY. TO BE GREETED BY THE SMOULDERING ASHES OF DEATH.







# WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

<p><b>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY</b>  <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu  Agastya  Andhaka  Anuruddha  Aruni And Ushanka  Ashvini Kumar  Ayyappa  Bahubali  Bhanupadi  Bheema And Hanuman  Bheeshma  Chandrabasa  Dasharatha  Dhruva And Ashtavakra  Draupadi  Drona  Elephanta  Gandhari  Ganesha  Ganesha And The Moon  Ganga  Garuda  Ghatotkacha  Hanuman  Hanuman To The Rescue  Hanschandra  Heroes Of Hampi  Indra And Shachi  Indra And Shibi  Indra And Vritra  Jagannatha Of Puri  Jayedraha  Kacha And Devayani  Karna  Kartavya  Konark  Krishna  Krishna And Jarasandha  Krishna And Narakasura  Krishna And Rubina  Krishna And Shikupala  Krishna And The False  Vasudeva  Kubera  Kumbhakarna  Mahabharata  Maharavana  Nachiketa  Nahusha  Naia Danyanti  Parashakti  Parashurama  Prebhavati  Prethymna  Prehla  Purushottam Dev And  Pudmavati  Rama  Ravana Humbled  Sarsavati  Sasi And Shiva  Saviri  Shiva Parvati  Stories Of Creation  Subhadra  Sudama  Sukanya  Surya  Tales From The  Upanishads  Tales Of Arjuna  Tales Of Balarama  Tales Of Durga  Tales Of Indra  Tales Of Nareda</p>	<p>Tales Of Shiva  Tales Of Vishnu  Tales Of Yudhishtira  Tapati  Therjavur  The Churning Of The  Ocean  The Gita  The Golden Mongoose  The King In  A Parrot's Body  The Lord Of Lanka  The Pandava Princes  The Pandavas In Hiding  The Parjita Tree  The Sons Of Rama  The Syamantaka Gem  Tripura  Tripura  Udopi  Valahna Devi  Vall  Vishvamitra  Yayati</p> <p><b>VISIONARIES</b>  <i>inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara  Albert Einstein  Anant Pai  Babasaheb Ambedkar  Basaveshwara  Buddha  Chaitanya Mahaprabhu  Chankya  Chokha Mele  Dayananda  Dashbandhu  Chittaranjan Das  Eknath  Fa Hien  Chandrayamdas Biria  Guru Arjan  Guru Gobind Singh  Guru Har Gobind  Guru Nanak  Guru Tegh Bahadur  Huen Tsang  J.R.D. 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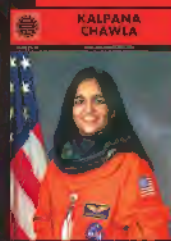
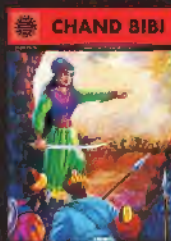


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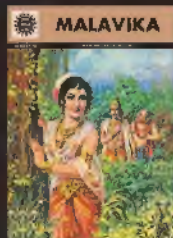
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